5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

000 the stream. Below the plateau it disappears into deep gorges among the hills bordering the Yangtze.

361 On the 14th February we reached Hui-li, a town of 3000 houses with a good wall round it. It has broad streets and is more prosperous looking than any of the towns of Yün-nan, except perhaps the capital of that province. Its chief products are opium, tobacco, indigo, and copper. The copper mine is at Lu-ch'ang, six miles south of the town, and as Mr Ker had seen it the previous year I did not visit it. Indigo is to be seen growing everywhere in the fields, covered over at this time of the year with straw to preserve it from the frost. The large tanks in which they mix the dye are found in nearly every village as well as in the town. The height of Hui-li I made 6,250 feet.

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823 The Basin has often been referred to by western writers as "the Eden of the Flowery Republic," or the "Garden of Asia." By the Chinese themselves, it is popularly called the "Tien Fu," which literally means the "Treasury of Heaven." Although these 241 names may appear exaggerated, they do suggest the agricultural 433 richness and the amazing diversity of the products of the Basin. Normally, Szechuan Basin leads all China in the production of corn and rape. It holds second place as a producer of rice, potatoes, and silk; fifth place, as a producer of wheat; and sixth, as a producer of millet, kaoliang, and soy beans. The Basin has been for decades unchallenged as a producer of such internationally known products as tung oil, bristles, herbs, Cho Tsai (pickled vegetables), Wu Pei Tze, and Nanmu (lumber).

The agricultural richness of the Basin and the important role it now plays in China's present war effort are demonstrated by one significant fact. The Basin alone contributes about 60 per cent of the total food supply for the entire Chinese fighting force, comprising over five million men. The Basin is truly a granary of all free China.

314 In forestry land use, the Basin normally produces about 433 a third of the total annual production of tung oil for all China. This product constitutes a critical cash crop for farmers in many parts of the Basin, particularly in the hilly east and southeast. At present tung oil occupies a vitally important position in the export trade of the Basin. It, alone, comprised about 65 per cent of the Basin's total export trade in 1940.

[388] Another important forestry product of the Basin is white wax. The Basin normally produces over 90 per cent of the total white wax of China. Although the economic value of this unique forestry product is not great, the spectacular snow-white color of the wax tree in the late Autumn adds much to the picturesqueness of the Basin's agricultural landscape.

• [386] Lacquer derived from the varnish tree, has been famous in the Basin ever since the Han dynasty (206 B.C. to 220 A.D.). It still remains one of the Basin's most reputed products.

135 The variety and abundance of strategic minerals in the Basin is second only to its richness in agricultural and forestry products. Today the Basin leads all China in the production of brine salt. Its iron reserve ranks second and its coal reserve ranks third in the country, but it is at present the leading